Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method ~~for providing multiple access modes in a data communications network,~~ comprising:

   ~~(a)~~ sensing a user device coupled to a port of a network access device;

   ~~(b)~~ determining if the ~~said~~ user device supports a user authentication protocol; and

   ~~(c)~~ placing the ~~said~~ port into a semi-authorized access state if it is determined that the ~~said~~ user device does not support the ~~said~~ user authentication protocol, the semi-authorized access state providing the user device with limited network access; ~~wherein said semi-authorized access state limits access by said user device to a pre-configured network accessible via the data communications network.~~

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the semi-authorized state limits access by the user device to a network, the network selected from the group comprising ~~said pre-configured network comprises~~ a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) network, the Internet, and a low security virtual local area network (VLAN).

3-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the placing ~~step (c)~~ comprises selectively placing the ~~said~~ port into one of a plurality of semi-authorized access states.

6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 5, wherein the placing ~~step (c)~~ comprises:

(1) determining a type of the ~~said~~ user device; and

(2) selectively placing the ~~said~~ port into one of a plurality of semi-authorized ~~semi-authorized~~ access states based on the ~~said~~ type of the ~~said~~ user device.

7. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the selectively placing ~~step (2)~~ comprises selectively placing the ~~said~~ port into a semi-authorized access state that limits access by the ~~said~~ user device to a ~~pre-configured~~ network comprising a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) network.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 6, wherein the selectively placing ~~step (2)~~ comprises selectively placing the ~~said~~ port into a semi-authorized access state that limits access by the ~~said~~ user device to a ~~pre-configured~~ network comprising the Internet if the ~~said~~ user device is a portable computing device.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~said~~ user authentication protocol is IEEE 802.1x.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the ~~said~~ network access device comprises a network switch.

11. (Currently Amended) A network access device ~~for providing multiple access modes,~~ comprising:

a plurality of input ports;

a plurality of output ports;

a switching fabric for routing data received on ~~the~~ said plurality of input ports to at least one

of ~~the~~ said plurality of output ports; and

control logic adapted to determine whether a user device coupled to one of ~~the~~ said plurality

of input ports supports a user authentication protocol used by a host network, and to

place ~~the~~ said one of ~~the~~ said input ports in a semi-authorized ~~semiauthorized~~ access

state if ~~the~~ said authentication protocol is not supported, the semi-authorized access

state providing the user device with limited network access~~;~~

~~wherein the said semi-authorized access state limits access by said user device to a pre-~~

~~configured network accessible via said host network.~~

12. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 11, wherein the semi-authorized state limits

access by the user device to a network, the network selected from the group comprising ~~said~~

~~pre-configured network comprises~~ a Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) ~~(VoI?)~~ network, the

Internet, and a low security virtual local area network (VLAN).

13-14. (Cancelled).

15. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 11, wherein ~~the~~ said control logic is adapted to

selectively place ~~the~~ said one of ~~the~~ said input ports into one of a plurality of semi-

authorized ~~semiauthorized~~ access states.

16. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 15, wherein ~~the~~ said control logic is adapted to

determine a type of ~~the~~ said user device and to selectively place ~~the~~ said one of ~~the~~ said input

ports into one of a plurality of semi-authorized access states based on ~~the~~ said type of ~~the~~ said user device.

17. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 16, wherein ~~the~~ said control logic is adapted to selectively place ~~the~~ said one of ~~the~~ said input ports into a semi-authorized access state that limits access by ~~the~~ said user device to a ~~pre-configured~~ network comprising a Voice over Internet ~~Internet~~ Protocol (VoIP) ~~(VoI?)~~ network.

18. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 16, wherein ~~the~~ said control logic is adapted to selectively place ~~the~~ said one of ~~the~~ said input ports into a semi-authorized access state that limits access by ~~the~~ said user device to a ~~pre-configured~~ network comprising the Internet if ~~the~~ said user device is a portable computing device.

19. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 11, wherein ~~the~~ said user authentication protocol is IEEE 802.1x.

20. (Currently Amended) A network system, comprising:

a host network that uses a user authentication protocol;

a network access device communicatively coupled to ~~the~~ said host network; and

a user device coupled to a port of ~~the~~ said network access device;

wherein ~~the~~ said network access device is adapted to determine whether ~~the~~ said user device supports ~~the~~ said user authentication protocol and to place ~~the~~ said port in a semi-authorized access state if ~~the~~ said user authentication protocol is not supported,

the semi-authorized access state providing the user device with limited network access;

~~and~~

~~wherein said semi-authorized access state limits access by said user device to a pre-configured network accessible via said host network.~~

21. (Currently Amended) The network system of claim 20, wherein the semi-authorized state limits access by the user device to a network, the network selected from the group comprising said ~~pre-configured network comprises~~ a Voice Over Internet Protocol (VoIP) ~~(VOIP)~~ network, the Internet, and a low-seurity virtual local area network (VLAN).

22-23. (Cancelled)

24. (Currently Amended) The network system of claim 20, wherein the ~~said~~ network access device is adapted to selectively place the ~~said~~ port into one of a plurality of semi-authorized ~~semiauthorized~~ access states.

25. (Currently Amended) The network system of claim 24, where the ~~said~~ network access device is adapted to determine a type of the ~~said~~ user device and to selectively place the ~~said~~ port into one of a plurality of semi-authorized access states based on the ~~said~~ type of the ~~said~~ user device.

26. (Currently Amended) The network system of claim 25, wherein the ~~said~~ network access device is adapted to selectively place the ~~said~~ port into a semi-authorized access state

that limits access by the ~~said~~ user device to a ~~pre-configured~~ network comprising a

Voice over Internet Protocol (VoIP) ~~(VoI?)~~ network.

27. (Currently Amended) The network system of claim 25, wherein the ~~said~~ network access

device is adapted to selectively place the ~~said~~ port into a semi-authorized access state

that limits access by the ~~said~~ user device to a ~~pre-configured~~ network comprising the

Internet if the ~~said~~ user device is a portable computing device.

28. (Currently Amended) The network system of claim 20, wherein the ~~said~~ user

authentication protocol is IEEE 802.1x.

29. (Currently Amended) The network system of claim 20, wherein the ~~said~~ network access

device is a network switch.

30. (Currently Amended) A program storage device readable by a machine, embodying a

program of instructions executable by the machine to perform a method, the method

comprising:

sensing a user device coupled to a port of a network access device;

determining if the ~~said~~ user device supports a user authentication protocol; and

placing the ~~said~~ port into a semi-authorized access state if it is determined that the ~~said~~ user

device does not support the ~~said~~ user authentication protocol, the semi-authorized access

state providing the user device with limited network access;

~~wherein said semi-authorized access state limits access by said user device to a pre-~~

~~configured network accessible via a data-communications network.~~

31. (Currently Amended) An apparatus comprising:

means for sensing a user device coupled to a port of a network access device;

means for determining if the ~~said~~ user device supports a user authentication protocol;
and

means for placing the ~~said~~ port into a semi-authorized access state if it is determined

that the ~~said~~ user device does not support the ~~said~~ user authentication protocol, the

semi-authorized access state providing the user device with limited network access~~;~~

~~wherein said semi-authorized access state limits access by said user device to a pre-~~

~~configured network accessible via a data communications network.~~

32. (New) A method comprising:

sensing a user device coupled to a port of a network access device; and

allowing the user device limited access to a network via the network access device if it is

determined that the user device is unable to communicate using a particular user

authentication protocol.

33. (New) The method of claim 32, further comprising performing further user authentication in

accordance with the user authentication protocol if it is determined that the user device is

able to communicate using the user authentication protocol.

34. (New) The method of claim 32 wherein the limited access comprises less access than access

afforded a user device that is successfully authenticated using the user authentication

protocol.

35. (New) The method of claim 34 wherein the limited access comprises access to a low-security Virtual Local Area Network (VLAN).

36. (New) A network access device comprising:

a plurality of input ports;

a plurality of output ports;

a switching fabric for routing data received on the plurality of input ports to at least one of the plurality of output ports; and

control logic configured to allow the user device limited access to a network if it is determined that the user device is unable to communicate using a particular user authentication protocol.

37. (New) The network access device of claim 36 wherein the control logic is further configured to perform further user authentication in accordance with the user authentication protocol if it is determined that the user device is able to communicate using the user authentication protocol.

38. (New) The network access device of claim 36 wherein the limited access comprises less access than access afforded a user device that is successfully authenticated using the user authentication protocol.

39. (New) The network access device of claim 38 wherein the limited access comprises access to a low-security Virtual Local Area Network (VLAN).

40. (New) A program storage device readable by a machine, embodying a program of

instructions executable by the machine to perform a method, the method comprising:

sensing a user device coupled to a port of a network access device; and

allowing the user device limited access to a network via the network access device if it is

determined that the user device is unable to communicate using a particular user

authentication protocol.

41. (New) An apparatus comprising:

means for sensing a user device coupled to a port of a network access device; and

means for allowing the user device limited access to a network via the network access device

if it is determined that the user device is unable to communicate using a particular user

authentication protocol.